

SECRET

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #7653-83
24 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH

:

National Intelligence Officer for Warning

25X1

FROM

:

National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

25X1

SUBJECT : East Asia Warning and Forecast Meeting

During the 19 October 1983 East Asia Warning and Forecast Meeting representatives of the Intelligence Community discussed and/or made forecasts concerning the following subjects:

I. The Philippines -- Stability Forecast

Barring assassination or deteriorating health, there is at least a 50 per cent chance that six months from now Marcos is likely to remain in power, but with curtailed room for maneuver. The elite and inner circle increasingly are already focused on the succession issue. The Army is expected to remain loyal, but opposition to General Ver may become more pronounced, and further fissures in the armed forces are possible. Imelda's drive to succeed her husband will probably meet with growing resistance, suggesting that some combination of the non-political military, represented by Ramos, and the technocrats, could become a likely succession formula for the future if Imelda's bid fails as expected. Accordingly, a power grab by Imelda or others in the inner circle is the most explosive variable in this mix.

II. China -- US-PRC Relationship Forecast

China will use the series of high-level visits that will extend through President Reagan's visit to stabilize relations with the US as long as Beijing is satisfied with the level of US technology made available and with US policies toward Taiwan. Beijing will continue to improve the atmosphere of relations with Moscow and will hope to maintain at least a degree of freedom of maneuver between the superpowers. The main potential source of instability in the Sino-US relationship will come with the passing of Deng Xiaoping, who is now 79 years old and who might well be gone in six months. Deng has appreciated the importance to China of good relations with the US and has been able to keep the persistent and inevitable irritants to relations in proper perspective. We are uncertain whether his successors will have the same ability or willingness to prevent such irritants from poisoning the overall relationship.

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

IV. Concerns of the Policy Community

Key policy issues under consideration in Washington include:

(1) The Philippines -- Marcos' future -- meaning of likely development for US-Philippine relations.

(2) Korea -- Chinese perceptions on movement toward reunification
-- Perceptions of Chun's political strength following
the Rangoon bombing -- has he been hurt?

25X6

25X1

SECRET